

## Matthew Chapter 12

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### Intro:

- The resentment and resistance grows.
  - Jesus had just taught that all could come to Him for rest. The religious leaders scoffed, and in effect stated "we don't need your rest, we have the Sabbath!"
  - What they didn't know was that Jesus is the Sabbath!
  - Jesus Vs religion                      Grace Vs works
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V: 1-2 "*Sabbath*" – Importance illustrated in that it is mentioned 8 times in first 12 verses.

### Commandment #4.

**Exodus 20:8-11**     <sup>8</sup>Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. <sup>9</sup>Six days shalt thou labour, and do all thy work: <sup>10</sup>But the seventh day is the Sabbath of the Lord thy God: in it thou shalt not do any work, thou, nor thy son, nor thy daughter, thy manservant, nor thy maidservant, nor thy cattle, nor thy stranger that is within thy gates: <sup>11</sup>For in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is, and rested the seventh day: wherefore the Lord blessed the Sabbath day, and hallowed it."

**Exodus 31:13**     "Speak thou also unto the children of Israel, saying, verily My Sabbaths ye shall keep: for it is a sign between Me and you throughout your generations; that ye may know that I am the Lord that doth sanctify you."

- Coming off of chapter 11, the last thing that Jesus taught on was the need for rest, rest for the body, and rest for the soul.

### Sabbath / Shabat.

- The "Sabbath" has always been the 7<sup>th</sup> day; there would be 6 days of work, then the 7<sup>th</sup> is a day of rest, or the Sabbath – which is Saturday, not Sunday.
- We as Gentile believers have the concept of the Sabbath through Jesus, He being our rest.
- From a historical context, and what is being spoken of here in Matthew is from a Jewish perspective, the Sabbath as such was intended for the Jews, not the Gentiles or non-Jews.

**Exodus 31:13**     "Speak thou also unto the children of Israel..."

**Exodus 31:16**     "Wherefore the children of Israel shall keep the Sabbath..."

**Exodus 31:17**     "It is a sign between Me and the children of Israel..."

- Keeping the Sabbath was a serious observance, there was the penalty of death for those who didn't.
- But that was for what God called the Sabbath, not necessarily what men made it into, there is a difference.

**Mark 7:6-9** “<sup>6</sup>He answered and said unto them, well hath Esaias prophecied of you hypocrites, as it is written, this people honoureth me with their lips, but their heart is far from Me. <sup>7</sup>Howbeit in vain do they worship Me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men. <sup>8</sup>For laying aside the commandment of God, ye hold the tradition of men, as the washing of pots and cups: and many other such like things ye do. <sup>9</sup>And He said unto them, full well ye reject the commandment of God, that ye may keep your own tradition.”

- God had a few basic, simple intentions with the Sabbath.
1. It was to somehow be a model of and intended to point us to Jesus.
  - Just like **Matthew 11:28-30** it wasn't intended to be difficult or cumbersome.
  2. The Sabbath was intended to be a physical break, actual physical rest, which God modeled for us in Genesis, working 6 days, resting on the 7<sup>th</sup>.

Jesus would later teach:

**Mark 2:27-28** “<sup>27</sup>And He said unto them, The Sabbath was made for man, and not man for the Sabbath: <sup>28</sup>Therefore the Son of man is Lord also of the Sabbath.”

**Exodus 31:15** “Six days may work be done; but in the seventh is the Sabbath of rest, holy to the Lord:...”

3. One of the purposes was to identify, or distinguish God's people, that they would be sanctified for His purposes, consecrated – apart from the rest of the world.

**Exodus 31:13** “Speak thou also unto the children of Israel, saying, verily My Sabbaths ye shall keep: for it is a sign between Me and you throughout your generations; that ye may know that I am the Lord that doth sanctify you.”

- I won't call it a Sabbath observance, but when we set a day apart out of our week to gather together to publicly, corporately worship God, celebrate Him, honor and study Him – that sets us apart, we're identified as His people.

4. Another purpose for the Sabbath that we glean from **Matthew 11:29** – “rest unto your souls”

- Not striving or working for salvation, peace with God – knowing that we can’t work enough to ever deserve it or obtain it.

**Romans 6:23** “For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.”

**Ephesians 2:8-9** “<sup>8</sup>For by grace are you saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: <sup>9</sup>Not of works, lest any man should boast.”

**Hebrews 4:1-3** “<sup>1</sup>Let us therefore fear, lest, a promise being left us of entering into His rest, any of you should seem to come short of it. <sup>2</sup>For unto us was the gospel preached, as well as unto them: (those in the wilderness) but the word preached did not profit them, not being mixed with faith in them that heard it. <sup>3</sup>For we which have believed do enter into rest, as he said, as I have sworn in My wrath, if they shall enter into My rest: although the works were finished from the foundation of the world.”

5. The last purpose that I’m aware of is that this was to be a day that was dedicated to worshipping God, to having fellowship and communion with Him.

- Over and over again we’ve seen in the book of Exodus that God simply wants to be with His people, and that ultimately that is why Jesus came – to restore that fellowship between a Holy and Righteous God, and sinful men.
- The intent was that He would particularly be the focal point of the day, and that this in itself would be refreshing in the Spirit.
- Have you every felt tired and weak, run down – and you get into a conversation about the Lord, or you share the Gospel with someone – and pretty quick you’re energized, excited, and the conversation takes on a completely different tone from before it started? That is the refreshing of the Lord!

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- The Jewish religious establishment had decreed many additions to the basic law that God had given and were very legalistic about it – which Jesus also came to set straight.

- There are those today who seek to either impose or enforce the Law of Moses upon believers today, mandating specific days of worship, rituals, and observances.

- Our basic rules of practice are these:

1. Did Jesus teach it?
2. Did the church of Acts practice it?
3. What does God’s word say about it?

**Colossians 2:13-17** “<sup>13</sup>And you, being dead in your sins and the uncircumcision of your flesh, hath He quickened together with Him, having forgiven you all trespasses; <sup>14</sup>blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way, nailing it to His cross; <sup>15</sup>And having spoiled principalities and powers, He made a shew of them openly, triumphing over them in it. <sup>16</sup>Let no man therefore judge you in meat, or in drink, or in respect of an holyday, or of the new moon, or of the Sabbath days: <sup>17</sup>Which are a shadow of things to come; but the body is of Christ.”

- All of this is where Jesus is headed, and obviously there is a conflict with the religious culture of the day.
- We accept this because we know who Jesus is and what place He has in our hearts.
- This is all very radical and un-orthodox to those hearing it from His lips

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- “Corn” of wheat in KJV.
  - Disciples were attacked when they were hungry, just like Jesus had been.

**Matthew 4:2-3** “<sup>2</sup>And when He had fasted forty days and forty nights, He was afterward an hungered. <sup>3</sup>And when the tempter came to Him, he said, if thou be the Son of God ...”

- Where did the attack come from? From the religious leaders, the religious establishment? Often times the attack seems to come from within the camp.
- Plucking a meal was technically ok.

**Deuteronomy 23:25** “When thou comest into the standing corn of thy neighbour, then thou mayest pluck the ears with thine hand; but thou shalt not move a sickle unto thy neighbors standing corn.”

V: 2 “Lawful”, man’s law / tradition or God’s law?

- Walking along and plucking a grape off of the vine, or in this case ears of grain is more like walking along the buffet line and grabbing a carrot.
- You weren’t allowed to carry food away from the field; but as the wheat was nearing the harvest, you could pull along the stem to the head of the wheat and end up with the grains of wheat in your hand. They would be encased in the husks, so would roll them back and forth between your two hands and the husks would break off, then you could blow the chaff away eat the grain.

- According to the interpretation of the Law that was developed in the Mishna (Rabbinic commentary), and later in the Talmud (codification of Mosaic law & traditions; 200 AD), it was not lawful on the Sabbath day to pick any food, fruit, or wheat.
- It was not lawful to thresh wheat on the Sabbath day – so the disciples had violated the Law on a couple of different points from their perspective.
- Had they been using a sickle, or had they brought a basket – that would constitute harvesting – which would be a real violation of the Sabbath.
- The Jews had added to the Law. They also had a law that said you could only walk so much before it became work on the Sabbath.
- According to their law, they were only able to walk a maximum of 3,000 feet from their front door before it became work – a distance of a little over ½ mile.
- These fields were more than likely outside the city...
- **Question:** What were the Jews doing there?
- The Jews were relying on the law for justification, but they were breaking it at the same time.

**Galatians 2:16** “Knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law, but by the faith of Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Jesus Christ, that we might be justified by the faith of Christ, and not by the works of the law: for by the works of the law shall no flesh be justified.”

V: 3-4 Jesus confronts them with the word of God and the example of King David; who also was rejected as king the first time around.

- Have you not read? Don't you know the scriptures?

David & his men ate the showbread out of the Tabernacle:

**1 Samuel 21:3-6** “<sup>3</sup>Now therefore, what is under thine hand? Give me five loaves of bread in mine hand, or what there is present. <sup>4</sup>And the priest answered David, and said, there is no common bread under mine hand, but there is hallowed bread; if the young men have kept themselves at least from women. <sup>5</sup>And David answered the priest, and said unto him, of a truth women have been kept from us about these three days, since I came out, and the vessels of the young men are holy, and the bread is in a manner common, yea, though it were sanctified this day in the vessel. <sup>6</sup>So the priest gave him hallowed bread: for there was no bread there but the showbread, that was taken from before the Lord, to put hot bread in the day when it was taken away.”

- There is that sense here that love is more important than the law.

**2 Corinthians 3:6** "... for the letter killeth, but the Spirit giveth life."

- Jesus took care of His men, just as David did.

V: 5 Jesus uses the priesthood itself as an example.

- Don't you know the Law?
- The priests "worked" on the Sabbath day as God had commanded them too. In fact, Sabbath days were double sacrifice days meaning twice the work.

**Numbers 28:9** "And on the Sabbath day two lambs of the first year without spot, and two tenth deals of flour for a meat offering, mingled with oil, and the drink offering thereof."

- There was a contradiction between Man's traditions violated / contradicted God's word.

**Acts 5:29** "Then Peter and the other Apostles answered and said, we ought to obey God rather than men."

**Galatians 1:10** "For do I now persuade men, or God? Or do I seek to please men? For if I yet pleased men, I should not be the servant of Christ."

**John 7:22-23** "<sup>22</sup>Moses therefore gave unto you circumcision; not because it is of Moses, but of the fathers; and ye on the Sabbath day circumcise a man. <sup>23</sup>If a man on the Sabbath day receive circumcision, that the law of Moses should not be broken; are ye angry at Me, because I have made a man every whit whole on the Sabbath day?"

V: 6 Jesus claimed to be greater than the temple, blasphemy in the Pharisees minds. They worshipped the temple itself, not the God who was supposed to inhabit it!

**2 Chronicles 6:18** "But will God indeed dwell with men on the earth? Behold, heaven and the heaven of heavens cannot contain You. How much less this temple which I have built!"

**Matthew 26:60-61** "... at the last came two false witnesses, <sup>61</sup>and said, this fellow said, I am able to destroy the temple of God, and to build it in three days."

**Malachi 3:1** "Behold, I send My messenger, and he shall prepare the way before Me: and the Lord whom ye seek, shall suddenly come to His temple, even the messenger of the covenant, whom ye delight in: behold, He shall come, saith the Lord of hosts."

V: 7 If you hadn't been ignorant of the scriptures, and history, and the law, and the prophets then...

- The guiltless were the disciples.
- They were told in **Matthew 9:13** to figure this out.

**Matthew 9:13** “But go ye and learn what that meaneth, I will have mercy, and not sacrifice: for I am not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance.”

Jesus is quoting the prophet Hosea:

**Hosea 6:6** “For I desired mercy, and not sacrifice; and the knowledge of God more than burnt offerings.”

- They didn't know God – or His heart.
- Sacrifice can be religious in nature and intent, but real mercy is a Godly characteristic.

**1 Corinthians 13** – Walking in Love?

**Micah 6:8** “He hath shewed thee, O man, what is good; and what doth the Lord require of thee, but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God?”

**Review:** Prophet, Priest, King – Jesus.

1. Hosea – Prophet.
2. Priestly duties in Temple.
3. King – David
  - Messiah!

**Jesus: Messiah**

1. Prophet, yes and more than a prophet. – Matt. 11:9
2. Great High Priest. Heb. 4:14
3. King of Kings, Lord of Lords. Rev. 19:16

V: 8 “Son of Man” **Daniel 7:13** – prophetic title for Messiah.

- “Lord of the Sabbath” – because He created it! He is Lord of all!

**Hebrews 4:9-11** “<sup>9</sup>There remaineth therefore a rest to the people of God. <sup>10</sup>For he that is entered into His rest, he also hath ceased from His own works, as God did from His. <sup>11</sup>Let us labour therefore to enter into that rest, lest any man fall after the same example of unbelief.”

- What was the purpose of the Sabbath?
- It is one of those things that points to Jesus!

V: 9 Teaching, Preaching, Healing. Into their synagogue, consistent with His ministry.

**Matthew 9:35** “And Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, and preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every sickness and every disease among the people.”

- “Their synagogue”, not my or our synagogue.
- Our “worship” is not to be limited to just a building.

**John 4:24** “God is Spirit, and they that worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.”

V: 10 parallel accounts: **Mark 3:1-7, Luke 6:6-11**

- Jesus takes issue with their hardness of heart; this man with the withered arm is a pawn in their petty game. They had probably not taken any notice of him or sought to minister to him – now they use him – now Jesus will not only minister to him, but He will use him for Good to teach them the real meaning of the Sabbath.
- The Pharisees questioned many things about the miracles Jesus did, but not His ability to do them.

**John 3:2** “The same came to Jesus by night, and said unto Him, Rabbi, we know that thou art a teacher come from God: for no man can do these miracles that thou doest, except God be with Him.”

**John 9:16** “Therefore some of the Pharisees said, this man is not of God, because He keepeth not the Sabbath day. Others said, How can a man that is a sinner do such miracles? And there was a division among them.”

V: 11-12 Value, people vs: traditions. Hippies vs: carpet CC Costa Mesa.

**Matthew 10:31** “Fear ye not therefore, ye are of more value than man sparrows.”

**Genesis 1:26-27** Man created in the image of God.

- One of the things Jesus demonstrated with the show bread was that love was of more value to God than the law / traditions (show bread).
- The two greatest commandments.

**Matthew 22:36-40** <sup>36</sup>“Master, which is the great commandment in the law? <sup>37</sup>Jesus said unto him, thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. <sup>38</sup>This is the first and great



commandment. <sup>39</sup>And the second is like unto it, thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. <sup>40</sup>On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.”

- Did Jesus break the law? No!
- The question was “is it lawful to do good on the Sabbath day?”
- Jesus gives the answer: “*Wherefore it is lawful to do well on the Sabbath days.*”

V: 13 **God's commandments are His enablements.**

- Jesus spoke forth the word: “And he stretched it forth” – faith.
- Paradigm shift, teachable, willing heart. Willing to be willing.

**Matthew 8:13** “And Jesus said unto the centurion, go thy way; and as thou hast believed, so be it done unto thee. And his servant was healed in the selfsame hour.”

**Matthew 9:22** “But Jesus turned about, and when He saw her, He said, daughter, be of good comfort; thy faith hath made thee whole. And the woman was made whole from that hour.”

[Man with infirmity 38 years healed at pool of Bethesda.](#)

**John 5:8** “Jesus saith unto him, rise, take up thy bed, and walk.”

**Hebrews 11:6** “But without faith it is impossible to please God...”

V: 14 Then the Pharisees went out and rejoiced at the great thing God had done...not!

**Mark 3:5** “And when He had looked round about on them with anger, being grieved for the hardness of their hearts...”

**Matthew 7:16-18** “<sup>16</sup>Ye shall know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes of thorns, or figs of thistles? <sup>17</sup>Even so every good tree bringeth forth good fruit; but a corrupt tree bringeth forth evil fruit. <sup>18</sup>A good tree cannot bring forth evil fruit, neither can a corrupt tree bring forth good fruit.”

**Galatians 5:19-21** “<sup>19</sup>Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these; adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, <sup>20</sup>idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, <sup>21</sup>envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told you in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God.”

John the Baptist declared:

**Matthew 4:7-10** “<sup>7</sup>But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees come to his baptism, he said unto them, O generation of vipers, who hath warned you to flee from the wrath to come? <sup>8</sup>Bring forth therefore fruits meet for repentance: <sup>9</sup>And think not to say within yourselves, we have Abraham to our father: for I say unto you, that God is able of these stones to raise up children unto Abraham. <sup>10</sup>And now also the axe is laid unto the root of the trees: therefore every tree which bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire.”

**Psalm 2:1-2** “Why do the heathen rage, and the people plot a vain thing? The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the Lord and against His Anointed, saying...”

- What was their motive?

**John 11:47-48** “<sup>47</sup>Then gathered the chief priests and the Pharisees a council, and said, what do we? For this man doeth many miracles. <sup>48</sup>If we let Him thus alone, all men will believe on Him: and the Romans shall come and take away both our place and nation.”

V: 15 Jesus didn't put Himself in harms way, until it was time.

**Matthew 4:7** “Jesus said unto him, it is written again, thou shalt not tempt the Lord thy God.”

- Jesus was still among the people, the “multitudes” – ministering to them.
- Healed them all. I haven't seen that on TV!

V: 16 God's timing is perfect.

**Matthew 5:16** “Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.”

- Jesus knew as well that this was no time for an insurrection; to embolden the people to rise up against the Roman occupation.

V: 17-21 Key phrase: “That it might be fulfilled.”

Quoting:

**Isaiah 42:1-7** “<sup>1</sup>Behold My servant, whom I uphold; mine elect, in whom my soul delighteth; I have put My spirit upon Him: He shall bring forth judgment to the Gentiles. <sup>2</sup>He shall not cry, nor lift up, nor cause His voice to be heard in the street. <sup>3</sup>A bruised reed shall he not break, and the smoking flax shall he not quench: He shall bring forth judgment unto truth.

<sup>4</sup>He shall not fail nor be discouraged, till He have set judgment in the earth: and the isles shall wait for His law. <sup>5</sup>Thus saith God the Lord, He that created the heavens, and stretched them out; He that spread forth the earth, and that which cometh out of it; He that giveth breath unto the people upon it, and spirit to them that walk therein: <sup>6</sup>I the Lord have called thee in righteousness, and will hold thine hand, and will keep thee, and give thee for a covenant of the people, for a light of the Gentiles; <sup>7</sup>to open the blind eyes, to bring out the prisoners from the prison, and them that sit in darkness out of the prison house.”

V: 18

**Isaiah 11:2** “And the Spirit of the Lord shall rest upon Him, the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the Lord.”

V: 19 John the Baptist was the herald.

- Jesus wasn't drawing attention to Himself.
- This man who had healed and fed thousands, done great miracles still had to be identified with a kiss.
- Maybe He was short, blending in easier.

V: 20 He is gentle.

**Matthew 11:29** “... for I am meek and lowly in heart...”

**Isaiah 40:11** “He shall feed His flock like a shepherd: He shall gather the lambs with His arm, and carry them in His bosom, and shall gently lead those that are with young.”

- Bruised reed: Jesus didn't come to break – He came to restore.
- Smoking flax: Jesus didn't come to quench, He came to re-kindle the flame.

V: 21 Part of the plan. (Isaiah 42:6-7)

**Romans 1:16** “For I am not ashamed of the Gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God unto salvation to everyone that believeth, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.”

**Galatians 3:28** “There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for ye are all one in Christ Jesus.”

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V: 22 Miraculous! - Demon possessed, blind, mute.

- Put in right mind, delivered. Seeing with new eyes, speaking / testifying of the things he now sees because of Jesus.

**Romans 12:2** “And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.”

All as it was prophesied:

**Isaiah 35:5-6** “<sup>5</sup>Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf shall be unstopped. <sup>6</sup>Then shall the lame man leap as an hart, and the tongue of the dumb sing; for in the wilderness shall waters break out, and streams in the desert.”

V: 23 The Son of David, again Messianic title. The Messiah would be a son of David.

- Beginning to consider the possibility that Jesus is the Messiah, **it's just beginning to dawn on them.**

V: 24 “*But the Pharisees*” – note the reactions of the people Vs Pharisees.

- The people are amazed, being drawn to a proper conclusion.
- Contrary – “Devil's advocate.”
- “Beelzebub” – lord of the flies...
- House divided: doesn't just apply to demonic activity, church, families etc.

**Psalms 133:1** “<sup>1</sup>Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity! <sup>2</sup>It is like the precious ointment upon the head, that ran down upon the beard, even Aaron's beard: that went down to the skirts of his garments; <sup>3</sup>As the dew of Hermon, and as the dew that descended upon the mountains of Zion: for there the Lord commanded the blessing, even life for evermore.”

- The trials of life, and the blessings will have one of two possible effects upon us – they will either draw us closer to the Lord, or drive us farther away – it's always our choice.

V: 25-26 Jesus knew! Jesus knows.

**1 Samuel 16:7** “... for the Lord seeth not as a man seeth; for man looketh on the outward appearance, but the Lord looketh on the heart.”

**2 Chronicles 6:30** “Then hear Thou from Heaven thy dwelling place, and forgive and render unto every man according unto all his ways, who’s heart Thou knowest; for Thou only knowest the hearts of the children of men.”

**Psalm 44:21** “Shall not God search this out? For He knoweth the secrets of the heart.”

- The Pharisees accusation and reasoning is illogical & flawed.
  - A kingdom divided against itself cannot stand.
  - Jesus was setting men free from the Devil’s control; not to his control.

**James 1:8** “A double minded man is unstable in all his ways.”

V: 27 OK, how do you do it? Jewish exorcists.

**Acts 19:13-16** <sup>13</sup>Then certain of the vagabond Jews, exorcists, took upon them to call over them which had evil spirits the name of the Lord Jesus, saying, we adjure you by Jesus whom Paul preacheth. <sup>14</sup>And there were seven sons of one Sceva, a Jew, and chief of the priests, which did so. <sup>15</sup>And the evil spirit answered and said, Jesus I know, and Paul I know; but who are ye? <sup>16</sup>And the man in whom the evil spirit was leaped on them, and overcame them, and prevailed against them, so that they fled out of that house naked and wounded.”

V: 28 Only God can cast out demons. (Only God can forgive sins Mark 2)

- Jesus is declaring I’m doing this by the spirit of God. Binding the strongman of the house first, and then spoiling his house.
- The strong man is bound through prayer, we can bind the works of Satan through prayer.

**Daniel 7:14** “And there was given to Him dominion, and glory and a kingdom, that all people, nations, and languages, should serve Him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and His kingdom which shall not be destroyed.”

- The principalities and powers of darkness are subject unto Jesus Christ.
- When the disciples came back from their mission, they were rejoicing and saying, Lord, even the devils were subject to us. And they are subject to Jesus.

**Colossians 2:15** “And having spoiled principalities and powers, He made a shew of them openly, triumphing over them in it.”

V: 29 In this case, the strong man is Satan who was defeated in **Matthew 4:1-11**. Jesus has since gone around spoiling his goods.

**Isaiah 49:24-26** “<sup>24</sup>Shall the prey be taken from the mighty, or the lawful captive delivered? <sup>25</sup>But thus saith the Lord, even the captives of the mighty shall be taken away, and the prey of the terrible shall be delivered: for I will contend with him that contendeth with thee, and I will save thy children. <sup>26</sup>And I will feed them that oppress thee with their own flesh; and they shall be drunken with their own blood, as with sweet wine: and all flesh shall know that I the Lord am thy Savior and thy Redeemer, the mighty One of Jacob.”

- How do we bind the “Strong Man” working in our lives and in the lives of others? Prayer!

V: 30 There is no middle ground; we’re on one side or the other.

**James 4:4** “Adulterers and adulteresses! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Whoever therefore wants to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.”

- Adulterers / adulteresses – those engaged in spiritual fornication.
- He can’t be just a good teacher, or a philosopher, prophet, or a good man – there is no room for that. Either He is who He says He is, or He’s a liar or a lunatic!

**Revelation 3:16** (Laodicea) “So then, because you are lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will vomit you out of My mouth.”

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V’s: 31-32 Blasphemy of the Holy Spirit, rejecting the testimony of the Holy Spirit.

- Not adultery, fornication, homo sexuality, abortion, or insurance fraud.

**Acts 7:51** “Ye stiff-necked and uncircumcised in heart and ears, ye do always resist the Holy Ghost: as your fathers did, so do ye.”

**Hebrews 6:4-6** “<sup>4</sup>For it is impossible for those who were once enlightened, and have tasted the heavenly gift, and were made partakers of the Holy Ghost, <sup>5</sup>and have tasted the good word of God, and the powers of the world to come, <sup>6</sup>if they shall fall away, to renew them again unto repentance; seeing they crucify to themselves the Son of God afresh, and put Him to an open shame.”

- Disbelief is essentially calling the Holy Spirit a liar = blasphemy.

**John 15:26** “But when the Comforter is come, whom I will send unto you from the Father, even the Spirit of truth, which proceedeth from the Father, He shall testify of Me.”

**2 Corinthians 6:1-2** “<sup>1</sup>We then, as workers together with Him, beseech you also that ye receive not the grace of God in vain. <sup>2</sup>For He saith, I have heard thee in a time accepted, and in the day of salvation have I succoured thee: behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation.”

**Genesis 6:3** “And the Lord said, My Spirit shall not strive with man,…”

**Hebrews 10:26-27** “<sup>26</sup>For if we sin willfully after that we have received the knowledge of the truth, there remaineth no more sacrifice for sins, <sup>27</sup>But a certain fearful looking for of judgment and fiery indignation, which shall devour the adversaries.”

- This blasphemy of the Holy Spirit can happen through our speech – what we declare, and it can happen through our actions – having heard then purposefully not acting upon that information – going in the opposite direction.

V: 33 Again no middle ground, it’s either good or it’s bad, and you can see the difference.

**Matthew 7:17-18** “<sup>17</sup>Even so every good tree bringeth forth good fruit; but a corrupt tree bringeth forth evil fruit. <sup>18</sup>A good tree cannot bring forth evil fruit, neither can a corrupt tree bring forth good fruit. <sup>19</sup>Every tree that bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire. <sup>20</sup>Wherefore by their fruits ye shall know them.”

- The easiest way to identify a tree is by the type of fruit it produces.

V: 34-35 Using the same title that John the Baptist gave them. (**Matthew 4:7**)

- Don’t let their appearance deceive you, listen to what they say and watch what they do, by their words and actions you will know them.

**Genesis 3:1** – snakes / vipers – Satan.

**James 3:11-12** “<sup>11</sup>Doth a fountain send forth at the same place sweet water and bitter? <sup>12</sup>Can the fig tree, my brethren, bear olive berries? Either a vine, figs? So can no fountain both yield salt water and fresh.”

V: 36-37 Accountability!

- An account for idle words, what about deliberate words?

- Confessing Jesus Christ as our Lord, receiving Him. *Justified!*

**Romans 10:9-10** “<sup>9</sup>That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised Him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. <sup>10</sup>For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.”

**Revelation 20:12** “And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works.”

**Malachi 3:16** “Then they that feared the Lord spake often one to another: and the Lord hearkened, and heard it, and a book of remembrance was written before Him for them that feared the Lord, and that thought upon His name.”

- God does not condemn anyone, those who perish have condemned themselves.

**John 3:17-18** “<sup>17</sup>For God sent not His Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through Him might be saved. <sup>18</sup>He that believeth on Him is not condemned: but he that believed not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.”

V: 38-41 Only those who had turned their backs on God, and worshipped apart from Him would ask for a sign, this constituted spiritual adultery.

- An evil and adulterous generation!
- The only sign you'll get will be my death and my resurrection.
- In **Matthew 11:21-24** Jesus compared certain cities to certain cities, and their respective fates, here He is comparing a nation to a nation. Niniveh / Assyria – Jerusalem / Israel.
- Willing hearts, willing to listen, willing to change.

**Matthew 11:15** “He who has ears to hear, let him hear!”

*“Indeed a greater than Jonah is here.”*

- Jonah preached judgment, Jesus came preaching grace and mercy.
- Jonah was disobedient, Jesus came obediently.
- Jonah preached to one city, Jesus came to the whole world.

*A greater than Jonah is in your midst, yet you do not respond.*



V: 42 Queen of Sheba - **1 Kings 10:1-9**

*“Indeed a greater than Solomon is here.”*

- The queen of Sheba traveled up from Africa to see Solomon. She had heard of his splendor, his majesty, and his wisdom; she went away saying: “Wow, the half wasn’t even told me” – she was blown away.
- Solomon had wisdom from God. Jesus is the wisdom of God.
- Solomon was a great king, Jesus is the King of Kings.
- Solomon spoke practically to his nation, Jesus spoke powerfully to all nations and creation.
- Solomon gave Sheba all that she desired, Jesus is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we can ask or think.

A greater than Solomon is in your midst, yet you do not respond.

V: 43

**Job 1:7** “And the Lord said to Satan, from where do you come? So Satan answered the Lord and said, from going to and fro on the earth, and from walking back and forth on it.”

**1 Peter 5:8** “Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour.”

V: 44 “Empty” – we need to be filled! **John 3:5-7, 1 Corinthians 3:16**

- Israel had gotten rid of the foreign gods and idols, but hadn’t replaced them with a relationship with God.
- Can’t just not be filled with bad, must be filled with good.

**John 3:5-7** “Jesus answered, most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not marvel that I said to you, you must be born again.”

**1 Corinthians 3:16** “Do you not know that you are the temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you?”

Drifting:

1. Not moving forward in our relationship with God.
2. Old habits / practices once discarded, renewed, re-surfacing.
3. Indifference to God’s Word.
4. Casual about the Gospel.

V: 45 Unless the Lord is at the center of things, including “cleaning our house” it will get dirty again.

**Psalm 127:1** “Unless the Lord builds the house, they labor in vain who build it; unless the Lord guards the city, the watchman stays awake in vain.”

**John 15:5** “... apart from Me you can do nothing.”

V: 46-50 The Immaculate conception, perpetual virginity, co-redemptress – all false teaching of the Roman Catholic church, heretical teachings that have more in common with paganism than Biblical Christianity.

Websters:

**immaculate**

1. free from spot or stain: *immaculate linen*.
2. free from moral blemish or impurity; pure.
3. free from errors: *an immaculate text*.

**Immaculate Conception**

1. the doctrine according to which the Virgin Mary was conceived in her mother's womb without the stain of original sin.
2. the feast commemorating this, celebrated on December 8.

**Isaiah 7:14** “Therefore the Lord Himself shall give you a sign; behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call His name Immanuel.”

**Romans 3:23** “For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God.”

**2 Corinthians 5:21** “For He hath made Him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in Him.”

**Matthew 13:55-56** <sup>55</sup>“Is this not the carpenter's son? Is not His mother called Mary? And His brethren, James, and Joses, and Simon, and Judas? <sup>56</sup>And His sisters, are they not all with us? Whence then hath this man all these things?”

- Mother Mary's influence is no different than ours.

**1 Timothy 2:5** “For there is one God and one Mediator between God and men, the Man Christ Jesus.”

- Being part of “God's family” isn't a matter of parentage, it's a matter of obedience.

V: 50 “Whosoever” – all! The work of God?

**John 6:28-29** “Then they said to Him, what shall we do, that we may work the works of God? Jesus answered and said to them, this is the work of God, that you believe in Him whom He sent.”

- Jesus is describing a personal relationship.
- Ours is a relational God.
- Our relationship with God is based on humility and obedience.

**John 14:21-24**